

Serial No. 09/884,274
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Reply to the Office Action dated December 16, 2004
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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-24 are pending in this application.

Claims 1-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Sugaya et al. (U.S. 6,538,210). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 1-24.

Sugaya et al. (U.S. 6,538,210) was filed on December 15, 2000, which is after the filing date of June 20, 2000 of JP 2000-184046 from which the present application claims priority. Applicants enclose a certified English language translation of JP 2000-184046. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Sugaya et al. (U.S. 6,538,210) is disqualified as prior art in the present application.

In view of the foregoing remarks and the enclosed certified translation of JP 2000-184046, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-24 are allowable.

In view of the foregoing remarks and the enclosed certified translation of JP 2000-184046, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are solicited.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-1353.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: January 19, 2005


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CERTIFICATION

I, Masahiro Ozawa, 10-1 Higashikotari 1-chome, Nagaokakyo-shi, Kyoto-fu, Japan, do hereby certify that I am conversant with the English and Japanese language, and I further certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief that the attached English translation is a true and correct translation of the Japanese patent application No. 2000-184046 filed on June 20, 2000.

Date: January 19, 2005

Masahiro Ozawa
Masahiro Ozawa